

Seven Seattle Minutemen Convicted of Conspiracy

Allegedly Planned to Rob
Four Banks

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Seven Seattle-area men belonging to the secret Minutemen organization were convicted Saturday night of conspiring to rob four suburban Seattle banks last January.

A U.S. District Court jury of eight men and four women returned the verdict after deliberating 3½ hours. The maximum penalty is five years' imprisonment.

Defense attorneys indicated several of the convicted men may appeal. They have one week to file.

The FBI arrested the seven Jan. 26 the day they purportedly planned to blow up the power and police station in Redmond, Wash., as a diversion to robbing three banks there. They also were accused of intending to rob a bank at Des Moines, Wash., a plan they ultimately dropped.

The trial was transferred here from Seattle on a motion for a change of venue.

A federal grand jury indicted nine men in connection with the bizarre plot. The two others, still at large, are Robert Bolivar DePugh, 44, founder and head of the Minutemen, and Walter Patrick Peyson, 24, his top aide, both of Norborne, Mo.

The government said the plot was master-minded by DePugh and Peyson, who went into hid-

ing when the secret grand jury indictments were made public.

An FBI informant who infiltrated the group testified at the 10-day trial the bank robberies were to raise nearly \$100,000 for the Minutemen, a militant rightwing group organized to wage guerrilla war against any internal Communist takeover of the United States.

Defense attorneys contended in their closing arguments no robberies actually were planned but the whole thing was a bank

robbery training exercise to prepare Minutemen for action after the Communists gained control.

When the seven were arrested in two cars, the FBI said it found 10 fire bombs, nine sticks

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of dynamite, a pipe bomb, two .38 caliber pistols and plans of the banks.

Convicted were Duane Ivan Carlson, 35, described as a full-time Minutemen employee, Milton J. Dix, 34, and Joseph D. Hourie, 21, all of Seattle; Marvin W. Henderson Sr., 57, Bothell, Wash.; Ervin J. White, 42, Edmonds, Wash.; Jerome N. Diemert, 43, Arlington, Wash.; and Kelly E. DeLano, 24, Tacoma.